

# River Scene



**SAN MARCOS**  
We'd love your company.

A Newsletter for City of San Marcos Employees

July/August 2012

## City Volunteers with Sunshine Kids Foundation

*By Melinda Clayton, Administrative Assistant*

City of San Marcos employees helped make this a memorable summer for children who have cancer by volunteering at the Sunshine Kids annual summer camp in San Marcos.

The free camp is for children ages 12-18 who are battling cancer from cities all over the United States. For the last 18 years, SMFD Captain Jay Horton has been instrumental in recruiting the many volunteers it takes to provide lifeguards and chaperones for more than 25 children.

The volunteers are from San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department, SMPD, SMFD, Hays County Sheriff's Department, and Texas State University student body.

Parks and Recreation provided the following lifeguards: Nikki Story, Colin McFerran, Adam Thompson, Kirby Jan, Barry Florendo, Jessica Harlin, Justin Gregg, Angelica Rodriguez, Allison Beck, James Holcomb, Christopher Carrillo, Selerina Rodriguez, Debra Barrera, Jessica Guerra, Cassi Gonzalez, and Samantha Maxwell.

SMPD volunteers were Marty Manzi, Richie Prado, Danny Castillo, Danny Arredondo, Paul Stephens, Chris Tureaud, and Delton Duggins.

SMFD volunteers were Captain Clint Foehner, Captain Jay Horton, Captain Paul Muth, Engineer Mark Bomar, Engineer Jonathan Hart, Engineer Jonathan Henderson, Engineer Tory Turner, Firefighter Micah Harris, Firefighter Dustin Miller, Firefighter Aaron Stewart, Firefighter Ross Garman and Fire Marshal Ken Bell.

Mayor Daniel Guerrero was also an active volunteer. He visited and checked on the condition of a camper who needed special medical attention at the hospital.

The campers had a week full of fun visiting Sea World, Schlitterbahn, floating the San Marcos River, riding a classic vehicle to Austin, touring the Capital building, Zip-Lining, rappelling a rock climbing wall, kayaking, fishing, swimming, cookouts, riding the driving course in a police car on a pretend car chase, picking a Harley motorcycle from EVO's motorcycle club to thunder down the road,



Volunteers from the City, County and Texas State University—and from throughout the community—come together to make the annual Sunshine Kids summer camp in San Marcos a memorable event (*Photo by Don Anders*).

fire station tour, shopping for souvenirs at Paper Bear, creating survival bracelets, dinner and dancing while looking at Classic Cars from Dick's Car Museum. Mayor Daniel Guerrero gave each child a key to the City and a proclamation for Sunshine Kids Week!

## Meet Our Twin in California!

*By Mark Brinkley,  
Assistant Director of Community Services*

Have you received a phone call for service and after a few minutes realized that you were talking to someone in California?

Recently Bert Stratemann and I were in San Diego to attend the National Environmental Health Association meeting. We decided to go visit the City Hall complex in San Marcos – California, that is!

We were greeted by Communications Officer Jenny Windle, who is Melissa Millecam's counterpart. She was most pleasant to talk with and shared several stories about phone calls that they had received requesting service on streets named LBJ, MLK, and Sessom. Their reaction was much the same as ours as they realized the calls were coming from Texas and not California!

*Continued on Page 11*



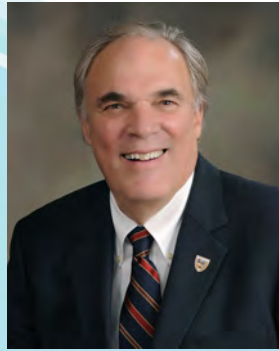
# Comp Plan Needs Staff Dreamers, Too

By Jim Nuse, City Manager

One of the most important projects now underway in San Marcos is the development of the San Marcos Comprehensive Plan that will guide growth and development in our community in the future.

Led by a City Council-appointed Steering Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee, the Comp Plan process is engaging citizens from across San Marcos to establish a vision and a plan for future of neighborhoods and housing, land use and transportation, parks and facilities, the environment and sustainability, economic development and our youth.

Our Planning and Development staff members have been deeply involved in this process for several months. As the project moves ahead, Director Matt Lewis has issued a call to all employees to be involved in the comprehensive plan update.



"Remember when you were a little kid and you wanted to live in the future? Well, you don't get to do that, but you do get to help invent it," Matt says.

"The master plan is the document that helps determine how the city is preserved, developed and how people live, work and play in San Marcos. It's the plan that really determines what you do in your day-to-day job. So why not get involved to help improve it and promote it to the community!"

As the Comp Plan advances through the summer to the land use and transportation "Design Rodeo" in September, I encourage you to offer your skills and time to this process. We have a great team and your contributions to the Comp Plan will help us reach the goal of having the new plan in place early in 2013.

More information is available online at [www.sanmarcostx.gov/dream](http://www.sanmarcostx.gov/dream).

## FROM THE EMPLOYEE GROUP

### Summer Bowling Event & School Supply Drive

#### LET'S GO BOWLING!

Pack up your honey and the kids and join your fellow employees for the second annual San Marcos Employee bowling event. On Friday, July 27 from 3 to 7 p.m., Sunset Lanes (1304



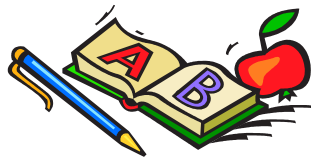
Texas 123) in San Marcos will open its doors exclusively to City Employees and their families for four fun-filled hours of

bowling! Sausage wraps, cookies, snacks and drinks will keep you fueled as you test your bowling skills.

What?? You don't know how to bowl? No worries. It is all about fun and fellowship with your co-workers and their families. Door prizes will be given throughout the event. Bowling shoes and balls will be provided at no charge. This event is being held in lieu of a summer picnic. Bring the family and join the fun!

#### BACK TO SCHOOL ALREADY??

Who can resist a new box of crayons? No one! So feel free to donate them to the Employee Group's School Supply Drive! The Group is on a mission to provide crayons and all other school supplies to San Marcos students as they head back to school. Help us give the kids the tools they need to succeed.



The Employee Group is collecting supplies now through August 8. Items needed include: #2 pencils, notebook paper, highlighters, pens, rulers, erasers, three-brad folders, glue sticks, three-ring binders, spiral

notebooks, crayons 16 ct & 24 ct, map colors, scissors, gallon size baggies, facial tissues, dry erase markers, and backpacks. See your Employee Group representative or check your department bulletin board for more details. Help us make a difference in someone's education.

Also during July, you are invited to donate children's books for Pre-K to 6-year-olds for the "Early Literacy Month" book drive in San Marcos. Donation barrels are at City Hall and other facilities. The drive has a goal of 15,000 books!



## OUR WRITERS

*River Scene* is a bi-monthly newsletter published by the City of San Marcos for our employees. Editorial Board Members are: Melissa Millicam, Editor, Trey Hatt, Asst. Editor, Melinda Clayton, Cindy Conyers, Stefanie Daily, Bobette Elliott, Jana Green, Janis Hendrix, Joni Jones, Denise Molina, Melissa Mulhollan, Stephanie Reyes, Denise Ryan, Jo Secrest, Karen Smith, Linda Spacek, Tammy Strakos, Kristy Stark, Renate Yanity and Warren Zerr. Contributors: Jim Nuse, Mark Brinkley and Don Anders. Copyright: July-August 2012

# Captain Rodger Olson Retires from SMFD

*By Melinda Clayton, Administrative Assistant*

Captain Rodger Olson hung up his bunker gear June 20 after a 26-year career with the San Marcos Fire Department.

Rodger was a Reserve Police Officer in one of the first Mounted Horse Patrol Units for several years. He assisted the Fire Marshal with investigations for over 10 years. Rodger has served as a firefighter, engineer and as a captain.

Captain Olson began his career as a volunteer firefighter at the age of 17 with the Schertz Fire Department. He earned his Firefighter's Certification from Texas A&M University.

In 2003, he was awarded the Medal of Merit from the San Marcos Fire Department for saving three teenagers from a house fire in Schertz. The same year, Rodger received a Unit Citation Award for assisting with the rescue of a young woman who had become trapped in floodwaters. In 2011, he received a Certificate of Appreciation for creating outstanding PowerPoint presentations for the Fire Department and being the department's talented photographer.

Rodger has volunteered his time assisting with the Sunshine Kids, teaching fire safety to children with the aid of the Fire Safety House, instructing adults in the first Citizens Fire Academy, and coaching his fellow firefighters in rescue and extrication classes.



Fire Chief Les Stephens and Assistant Chief Len Nored present badges representing a distinguished career to Captain Rodger Olson (Photo by Don Anders).

"On behalf of the citizens of San Marcos and all other members of the San Marcos Fire Department, both past and present, I would like to thank Captain Olson for his 26-plus years of dedicated service and wish him the best in all his future endeavors," said Fire Chief Les Stephens.

Rodger and his wife Karen, who retired in August, plan on hooking up their 32-foot travel trailer and crossing off items on their "Bucket List," which includes the Albuquerque Balloon Festival in New Mexico, taking an Alaska cruise, visiting their seven children and enjoying photography.

Thank you, Rodger for your many years of service to the City of San Marcos. You will be missed by many, especially the members in your Fire Department family!

## City Athletes Take Second in Corporate Challenge



TOP COMPETITORS: The City Team takes second in the Canoe Races: L-R standing are Frank Molina, Isaac Hernandez, J.R. Mendoza, Esther Carver, Jon Clack and Jessica Jenkins; seated are Heather Hurlbert, Denise Molina and Jamie Lee Pettijohn.

*By Denise Molina, Webmaster*

San Marcos athletes finished a successful season in the 2012 Corporate Challenge taking second place overall and enjoying a BBQ awards banquet on June 24.

The City teams were awarded first place plaques for Softball, Darts, Kickball and Golf, and second place for Canoe Races and Dodge Ball.

The City has competed in events from February to June and took second place overall, competing against 11 other San Marcos companies.

A special thanks to Mick Medina, Coach Farmer and all the Parks & Recreation staff that have given their time to sponsor the 2012 Corporate Challenge and the 70-plus city employees who have participated in this year's Corporate Challenge events! .....Until next year.

# WELCOME! *New Employees*



**IVAN TALLEY**

*Network Administrator  
Information Technology  
Department*

I'm originally from Southern Illinois and came to central Texas in the Air Force. After a couple of years in Hawaii, I moved back to this area with my wife, who is a native Austinite. We've been married for 29 years and have no children. We moved to San Marcos from Kyle three years ago and love it. I came to the city from an Austin law firm after seven years, and I'm really enjoying the work, people, and the six-mile commute!



**KAY MOORE**

*Library Assistant  
Community Services-  
Library*

I grew up on a farm in the San Marcos area, spent many hours on or in the San Marcos River and am a longtime member of the San Marcos River Foundation. My love for books and the river intertwine in my life, with a degree in Aquatic Biology from SWT (now Texas State) and work at a local college bookstore (Colloquium) most of my adult life. I am interested in gardening, native wildlife, environmental issues, love canoeing and camping and am an avid reader. Now I get to indulge in and share my love of books at the San Marcos Public Library.



**SAMANTHA GONZALES**

*Utilities Customer  
Service Clerk  
Finance Department*

My name is Samantha and I will be working in the Utility Department. I was born and raised in San Marcos. I come from a large family. In my free time, I enjoy spending it with my family, doodling, and

watching movies. I'm grateful for this opportunity and look forward to new adventures.



**COLLEEN NORTON**

*Animal Shelter Technician  
Community Services-Environmental Health*

My name is Colleen, and I will be working in Animal Services at the San Marcos Animal Shelter. I'm originally from Buda, Texas, but I just moved to San Marcos with my boyfriend. I love it here in San Marcos because I love to go tubing and swimming. I also enjoy going to the shooting range and dancing. I look forward to working for the City and seeing what opportunities it brings me!



**SHANNON SMITH**

*Animal Shelter Technician  
Community Services-  
Environmental Health*

Hey everybody, I'm Shannon! I'll be starting at Texas State as a junior this August to work toward a degree in Wildlife Biology. I just moved to the area from Spring, Texas. I'm originally from San Antonio and am excited to be back in the Hill Country! You can find me at the animal shelter—I'm the newest technician there, so go easy on me. I'm still temporarily staying in San Antonio, but hope to find a nice little house to rent here in San Marcos with my boyfriend and 170 lb. great Dane soon. See you around!



**NIKKI WALTERS**

*Training and Development  
Coordinator  
Human Resources  
Department*

Hello! I'm excited to join the City as the new Training and Development Coordinator with the HR team. I

moved to San Marcos four years ago from Illinois to work for Texas State University. My background is in student housing management, training and development, and I received my Masters of Adult and Higher Education from Northern Illinois University.

To balance work-life, I'm passionate about staying very active. Outside of work, you'll find me cycling around town, on the river, anywhere outside and spending time with my dogs. I also love a good Texas Country show at a local music venue.



**YVETTE GONZALES**

*Utilities Customer  
Service Clerk  
Finance Department*

Hi, I'm one of the newest additions to the Utility Department. I'm originally from Hearne, but I've lived in San Marcos for 22 years. I have a background in telecom, and I'm excited to be a part of the COSM family. My daughter (Adamina, 16) and I are pretty much gypsies at heart and feel most at home out on the open road. In addition to travelling, I love concerts, motorcycles, and all things "techy."

## EMPLOYEES ON THE MOVE

**Jesse Shroyer**

*Street and Drainage Manager  
Public Services-Transportation*

**Abimael Trevino**

*Line Person Helper  
Public Services-Electric Utilities*

**Holley Garcia**

*Administrative Assistant  
Public Services-Transportation*

**Jose Urbina**

*Line Person, Apprentice  
Public Services-Electric Utilities*

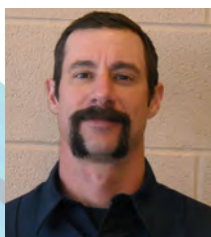
# EVERYDAY HEROS



Jonathan Henderson



Tara Brinkkoeter



Brad Mason



Blake Schanhals

San Marcos Fire Department Engineer Jonathan Henderson was off duty and stopped to assist a stranded motorist on the IH-35 west access road near the overpass at River Ridge Parkway. He attempted to help move the driver's late model Chrysler LeBaron, but the car barely made it to River Ridge Parkway before it died again. The stranded motorist and Engineer Henderson exchanged information and he let the driver borrow his own personal vehicle to help her get to work on Thorpe Lane!

Fire Department personnel on duty at Station 5 Captain Tara Brinkkoeter, Engineer Brad Mason and Firefighter Blake Schanhals then managed to get the car safely off the road and to the station's parking lot. What a team effort!

Engineer Jonathan Henderson went well above and beyond to help the stranded woman, especially letting her borrow his truck! Chief Les Stephens commented when he heard of the generous act, "Great job Jonathan! Thanks for everything you do for the citizens of San Marcos!"



Les Stephens



**ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:** Lisa Dvorak, former Assistant Police Chief and now the City's Community Liaison with the ACT (Achieving Community Together) Program, receives the "Alumni Achievement Award" from Texas State University President Denise Trauth. The prestigious award is given to alums who have achieved great distinction in their professions and serve as inspirations to others. With Lisa are Keith Kenebrew and Kenneth Huewitt of the Alumni Association.

# CUPCAKE CRAZE!

*By Tammy Strakos,  
Human Resources*

When Renate Yanity, Contracts Manager in the Legal Department, was asked to donate some of her now famous cupcakes to a local charity auction, she readily agreed. She had no idea that her cupcakes would fetch more than \$1,000 per dozen.

Carolyn Linér, former director of Human Resources at the City of San Marcos and board member for HCWC, asked Renate about contributing to the Hays-Caldwell Women's Center.

"Sometimes, because of the job I do, I miss feeling like I am making a difference in the community. I used to be a teacher, and there are some altruistic feelings that go with that job which I miss. This is my home, and this was one way I could give of myself to an organization that does so much good in this community," Renate said.



If you know Renate at all, you know she loves baking and has a knack for creating some of the most uniquely designed and tasty cupcakes and cake pops around. Her contribution for the event was two- dozen cupcakes, each topped with a fondant image of a woman's face, representing the hundreds of women who find help and new beginnings at the women's center. For the top bidder, an additional gift certificate was included for another dozen cupcakes of their choosing.

During the course of the auction, the crowd went crazy for Renate's cupcakes, and a bidding war broke out. By the time the dust settled, the cupcakes earned \$2,200 for the Women's Center—or \$1,100 per dozen!

"I was flabbergasted and thought the total was a typo! It was one of those warm fuzzy feelings we don't get all that often," Renate said. "It was an honor to be a part of it, and I hope I get to participate again."

# Big Rigs



*By Susan Smith, Librarian*

Some 1,400 children flocked to the San Marcos Public Library on June 8 for the annual Big Rigs event giving kids the thrill of exploring vehicles including fire trucks, bucket trucks, bulldozers, wastewater vacuum trucks, front end loaders, pipe-exploring robots, police cars and ambulances.

We had great support for our Big Rigs event from the Electric Utility, Water Department, Street Department, Wastewater, Fire and Police.

Many parents commented about how nice all the City workers were as they lifted child after child up into the driver's seat of bright, shiny city vehicles and equipment.

We also had the support of San Marcos CISD transportation, Texas Disposal System, Dick's Classic Garage, and Hays County EMS.

Congratulations to our terrific Big Rigs teams!





# BIG RIGS!

# Police, Fire Gear Up to Show Citizens What It's Like

By Melissa Millicam,  
Director of Communications and  
Trey Hatt, Communications Specialist

Police officers and firefighters are busily preparing their equipment and lesson plans for some of the most exciting training offered in the organization—and the students aren't police officers or firefighters.

Citizen Fire Academy and Citizen Police Academy will kick off this fall.

The San Marcos Fire Department will sponsor its second Citizens Fire Academy this fall, starting in late August and running through early November. Last year 15 citizens went through the training.

The Citizens Fire Academy offers a 12-week course of classroom and hands-on experience to teach citizens about the demands and challenges of fire service. The department already has a list of interested citizens and will send out information soon on how to apply for the course.

Classes cover a department overview, ground operations, EMS with CPR and AED certification, swift water rescue and rope rescues, fire extinguisher training, fire safety and fire science.

Students also learn about personal protective gear, ground ladders and aerial operations, pump operations, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials, and live fire training with full protective gear and breathing apparatus.

The San Marcos Police Department will host its 32nd Citizen Police Academy starting Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012.

CPA offers residents a special opportunity to learn about their community police force from the officers themselves. The 13-week course is taught by SMPD officers and emergency communications staff and covers varying topics ranging from the officer hiring process, Internal Affairs, DWI enforcement, Narcotics, SWAT team operations, victim services and juvenile law.

Graduates of the CPA are invited to join the Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association and continue their relationship with the SMPD by helping to obtain special equipment, assisting in the protection of property while residents are away on holidays, and providing meals for officers, communications operators, fire fighters, and EMS personnel who work on Christmas Day.

Applications for CPA are available on the City of San Marcos website at [www.sanmarcostx.gov/cpa](http://www.sanmarcostx.gov/cpa). For more information on Citizen Fire Academy, contact the Fire Department at 512.805.2660.

## FAMILY ADDITIONS

By Karen Smith,  
Secretary to the City Manager

### WEDDINGS:

**Jimmy (Parks Department) and Robin (SMEU) Venable** announce the marriage of their son **Jared (Streets)** to Katy Kelsey. The couple was married in Wimberley at the Cypress Falls Event Center on June 2.



**Trey Hatt, Communication Specialist (City Manager's Office)** married Cindy Schiurring in Wimberley at the Serenity Farm House Inn on Saturday, June 23.



### STORK REPORT:



**Lindsey Mena, Juvenile Case Coordinator (Municipal Court)** and her husband **Salvador Mena Jr.**, are happy to announce the birth of their son **Kai Alexander Mena**. Kai was born June 4, 2012. He weighed 8 lbs 3 oz and was 21.5 inches long. This is their first baby!



**Detective Mark Jarman, (Investigations Division, SMPD)** welcomed his first grandson in June. **Jasper Luke Deghelder** was born on June 5, 2012 at CTMC here in San Marcos. Jasper graced us with his presence about a month early and has been staying in Austin at the St. David's Hospital at the NICU. He is progressing very well and is expected to come home to his mom and dad soon. Jasper's mother is Kelsey Jarman and father is Matthew Deghelder.



**Olivia Nicole Polanco** was born on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 8:02 a.m. weighing 6 lbs, 8 oz and was 19.5 inches long. She is the granddaughter of **Mary Garcia (Library)** and niece of **Andrew (Streets)** and **Stephanie Reyes (City Manager's Office)**.



**Kye Kennedy, Corporal (SMPD)**, and wife **Rebecca** are the proud parents of a baby boy. **Jaxon Kye Kennedy** was born May 13, 2012 (Mother's Day!) at 8:08 p.m. He weighed 7 lbs, 15 oz and was 21 inches long. Rebecca formerly worked in the San Marcos City Manager's office.

# WEIGHT WATCHERS: Improving the Quality of Life!

By Denise Molina, Webmaster

When the Weight Watchers at Work program started in January 2010, nobody knew the great impact it would have.

The program has succeeded because City employees developed a support network that resulted in astounding figures. Nearly 100 City employees participating in the program have lost more than 2,000 pounds—and are still losing. Twenty-one have reached their lifetime goals and now enjoy free membership.

The City provides a 50% reimbursement of program cost for employees who attend 13 out of 16 meetings or lose 5% of total body weight during the 16 weeks. (Check with HR!)

Tina Moreno joined the program because she lost her mom to diabetes and knew she could become diabetic if her eating habits did not change. Others were tired of diets that didn't work, wanted a healthier life or just wanted to change their appearance.

Sgt. Fred Wisener noticed--beyond having to get new uniforms and duty belt--that his blood pressure and cholesterol were not sky high any longer and he has more energy. Allison Brake says, "I was a shy girl with low self-esteem, and now I am a woman who is confident in herself and in her life choices." Jennifer Ornelas has had such great success on the program, she now works for Weight Watchers as a leader and encourage others in their weight loss goals.

Participants are invaluable in their support of each other, exchanging tips, recipes, and tricks. Members plan activities during lunch and outside of work to get them active. Climbing stairs, running 5Ks, joining exercise classes, swimming and hiking forges close bonds and friendships.

The Weight Watchers at Work program has become more than just a weight loss program -- it is a program that has helped make many positive changes our lives. The biggest change for most members is their overall quality of life after weight loss. Some have even reported getting off of medications due to their healthier lifestyles.

Many of us on this "journey" together have a special bond because of this at work program- It truly is life changing! You are welcome to join, too!

Some success stories are: Jessica Jenkins (65lbs), Esther Carver (44lbs), Kerry Cortez (65lbs), Jennifer Ornelas (40lbs) Allison Brake (50lbs), Denise Molina (50lbs), Sandra McKenzie (30lbs), Roseanna Wisener (23lbs), Fred Wisener (65lbs), Melissa Bretzke (70lbs) and Melissa Millicam (40lbs).

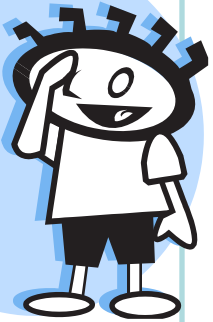
**City of San Marcos**  
**Weight Watchers at Work**  
12 Noon Wednesdays  
Activity Center • 501 E. Hopkins  
**Visit a Meeting to Learn**  
**More or to Join**  
Register online at  
[www.weightwatchers.com](http://www.weightwatchers.com)  
**Public Is Welcome!**

## BENEFITS BOX

### Getting an *EYEFUL*!

By Tammy Strakos, Benefits Specialist

I've been getting a ton of questions on the City's eye exam benefit! What is it? How do you use it? What forms do you have to fill out to get reimbursed?



Let's look at this more closely to see how you can get the most from this benefit:

*What can you get?*

• A routine eye exam with refraction is covered at 100% subject to usual and customary rates.

*Who do you have to go to?*

• ANY eye care provider. There is no network requirement for this particular benefit.

*How is the bill paid?*

- Although it is not required, if you choose to use an in-network provider, he/she will bill TML directly for you. Out of network providers will ask you to pay up front for your exam and leave it up to you to get reimbursed.
- If you pay up front, ask for an itemized receipt with a CPT code (this is the procedure code showing what service you received).
- If you also get glasses or contacts as a result of your visit, ask to get two separate receipts, one for just the eye exam and one for the other items (the benefit does not cover glasses or contacts, but you can use Flex monies for this if you are a participant).

*What forms do I need to fill out to get reimbursed?*

- There are NO forms to fill out to get reimbursed for an eye exam. Simply follow the steps below to get your money:
  1. Make a copy of your insurance card and write on the copy "please reimburse under wellness."
  2. Send the copy of your card and your original receipt (keep a copy for yourself) to TML at the address on your insurance card.
  3. Keep an eye on your mailbox for your reimbursement check from TML that will be sent to you within a couple of weeks!

*Still have questions? No problem!*

Give us a call in HR and we'll be happy to help you get the most from your benefits.

# Remembering First Responders of 9-11

By Melinda Clayton, Administrative Assistant

On Friday, June 15th, 2012 the SMFD dedicated a Hockey Jersey worn by a fallen firefighter killed in the line of duty during the terrorist attacks in New York City on September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center.

FDNY Firefighter Kevin Bracken and his company were dispatched to the World Trade Center that morning. Bracken and his unit of 11 other firefighters were lost. Even though the SMFD did not know him personally, firefighters must never allow the ones who go before them to be forgotten.

San Marcos resident Steve Goodson was a good friend of Bracken and was visiting New York during the attack. Mr. Goodson lost his long time friend and had kept Bracken's hockey jersey in his closet for years. He decided the memento should be displayed in a firehouse where more could see the shirt and the heroic deeds of his friend not forgotten.

Bracken's sister and brother-in-law, Kathy and Jim Brown from Houston,

came for the dedication and gave some insight into the man that paid the ultimate sacrifice. Bracken's Jersey and some personal photographs are now proudly hanging at Fire Station 1.

It is truly an honor to have the opportunity to allow FDNY Firefighter Kevin Bracken's life to be remembered here in San Marcos.



Celebrating the heroic sacrifice of fallen FDNY Firefighter Kevin Bracken are, front row L to R Fire Chief Les Stephens, Eng. Mark Bomar, Capt. Frank Arredondo, Capt. Howard Minor, Battalion Chief Jim Matano, Bracken's sister and brother-in-law Kathy and Jim Brown, friend Steve Goodson, former SMFD Eng. James Frye, and back row L to R Capt. Garrett Jordan, FF Kaleb Johnson, Asst. Fire Chief Len Nored, Eng. Bill Young, Capt. Aaron Crawford, Eng. Brad Mason, FF Vincent Marin, Asst. Fire Chief Karl Kuhlman, FF Dustin Miller, FF Blake Schanhals, and retired SMFD Fire Chief Todd Derkacz (Photo by Don Anders).

## City Launches New Website; Intranet is Next!



By Melissa Millicam, Communications Director

The reinvented City of San Marcos website at [www.sanmarcostx.gov](http://www.sanmarcostx.gov) went live in May with a dynamic new look, extensive content, and an easy navigation system.

We started the City website in-house in 1995, and this is the first major overhaul and redesign since then. The staff team worked with Vision Internet, a nationally recognized website developer for municipal governments, to build and design the site and provide a new content management system.

The new website has multiple points of access to information from the home page, such as online bill payments, jobs, community information, departments, news, calendars, events and contacts.

The Web Team has begun work on "City Insider," the new Intranet site that will be launched later this summer with information just for City employees. The Intranet site will feature employee resources, policies and benefits, staff directory and search tool, City Team, a polling tool, and a special "We Care" menu for special projects and charities supported by staff.

Congratulations to Denise Molina and the entire Web Team who worked for many months to help create the new web site and continue to keep it up-to-date.

# SUMMER INTERNS

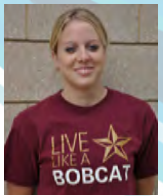
By Trey Hatt,  
Communications Specialist

Summertime brings a break from university academics—and for a big group of City of San Marcos interns, it's a chance to dive into the work that could create a future career.

This summer's class of interns are honing their GIS skills, cleaning out old computers, and planning erosion control strategies for the San Marcos River. These diligent students and recent graduates are gaining experience in their chosen fields and adding their hard work and good ideas to the City's efforts.



**Miguel Tabasco**  
City Clerk's Office  
Texas State University-  
Public Administration  
Senior



**Stacy Krupala**  
Parks and Recreation  
Texas State University-  
General Agriculture  
Senior



**Layne Duesterhaus**  
Community Services  
Graduate of Texas State  
University-Resource and  
Environmental Studies



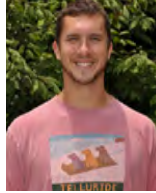
**David Winkler**  
Planning and  
Development Services  
Texas State University-  
Geography/Urban and  
Regional Planning  
Senior



**Tory Carpenter**  
Planning and Develop-  
ment Services  
Graduate of Texas State  
University-Geography/  
Urban and Regional  
Planning



**Eugene Washington**  
Marshal's Office  
University of North  
Texas-Emergency  
Management  
Senior



**Brian Calvin**  
Nature Center  
Texas State University-  
Recreation  
Administration  
Senior



**Colleen McGrath**  
Nature Center  
Texas State University-  
Applied Sociology  
Senior



**Nick Menchaca**  
Nature Center  
Texas State University-  
Recreation  
Administration  
Senior



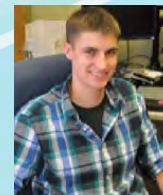
**Nick Chapa**  
Nature Center  
Texas State University-  
Recreation  
Administration  
Senior



Summer offers students a chance to serve their community and develop skills they need for future employment. Nature center interns, l-r, Nick Chapa, Colleen McGrath, Nick Menchaca, Connor O'Quinn, and Brian Calvin introduce visitors to the wonders of nature in San Marcos.



**Connor O'Quinn**  
Nature Center  
Texas State University-  
Recreation  
Administration  
Senior



**Cullen Smith**  
IT  
Texas A&M-Architecture  
Sophomore



**Randall Ondrusek**  
Finance  
Texas State University -  
San Marcos  
Finance and Accounting  
Junior

## San Marcos, California

(from page 1)

We were introduced to Deputy City Manager Lydia Romero, who was interested in "picking our brain" on issues we might share. One in particular was the "town-gown" challenges they have (California State University-San Marcos—the Cougars!) We spent several minutes discussing city-university issues and shared information about our internationally recognized Achieving Community Together (ACT) program.

Bert and I shared stories on issues about animals and public health. We all realized just how much we have in common when it comes to providing services to the public and striving to meet citizens' expectations.

City Manager Jack Griffin stopped in on his way to another meeting and we were introduced to him. Jack has a lot in common with Jim Nuse. And we discovered he has training in the environmental sciences as well as experience with animal services.

We had a great visit with our sister city in California. We exchanged business cards, handshakes and promises to visit us if they are ever in the area.

## Recognize and care for heat related emergencies

Last year according to the National Weather Service, excessive heat has caused more deaths than all other weather events except tornadoes. By recognizing and treating the symptoms of heat injury, you could save yourself or your coworkers from serious injury or even death.

### **Sign of Heat Stress:**

Heat cramps are muscular pains and spasms that usually occur in the legs or abdomen caused by exposure to high heat and humidity and loss of fluids and electrolytes. Heat cramps are often an early sign that the body is having difficulty with the heat.

Heat exhaustion usually involves the loss of body fluids through heavy sweating during strenuous exercise or physical labor in high heat and humidity.

- Signs of heat exhaustion include cool, moist, pale, or flushed skin; heavy sweating; headache; nausea; dizziness; weakness; and exhaustion.

- First Aid Move the person to a cooler place. Remove or loosen

tight clothing and apply cool, wet towels to the skin. Fan the person. If the person is conscious, give small amounts of cool water to drink. Make sure the person drinks slowly. Watch for changes in condition. If the person refuses water, vomits or begins to lose consciousness, call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.

Heat stroke is a life-threatening condition in which a person's temperature control system stops working and the body is unable to cool itself.

- Signs of heat stroke include hot, red skin which may be dry or moist; changes in consciousness; vomiting; and high body temperature.

- First Aid Heat stroke is life-threatening. Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number immediately. Move the person to a cooler place. Quickly cool the person's body by giving care as you would for heat exhaustion. If needed, continue rapid cooling by applying ice or cold packs wrapped in a cloth to the wrists, ankles, groin, neck and armpits.

## NEW VOIP PHONES COMING YOUR WAY

*By Denise Molina, Webmaster*

IT is in the process of deploying 496 VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) phones citywide with departments scheduled through the end of July.

VoIP allows for the phone to work off the same line as your computer, reducing the need for a telephone line, power outlets and reducing future expenses in cabling costs.

Training will be provided during deployment to give users an overview of the highlighted features of the new phones. The quick reference guides and user manuals are available on the intranet at <http://cosmos>.

## New Training Sessions Planned

*By Nikki Walters,  
Training and Development  
Coordinator*

It's a very exciting time to be an employee for the City of San Marcos! In the upcoming months we will be rolling out some new learning and training opportunities just for you.

These sessions will consist of basics like customer service and anti-harassment as well as more in-depth offerings such as leadership, technology and communication. We already know how much of an asset you are to the City, and this learning initiative will build on your strengths.

We'd like to thank all the directors, assistant directors, managers and administrative team members who took the time to meet with us over the last month. All the feedback you provided has helped us develop the City's new learning initiatives. We look forward to working with you more as this process continues.

Everyone be on the lookout for more communications from us. We look forward to working and learning with you soon!

## WICWELLNESSWORKS

**Want to get physically active at work, but don't know how? Every little bit of physical activity counts toward increasing your general health.** While just moving at work is not a substitute for moderate physical activity, like walking or swimming or dancing, it still keeps you moving and on your feet. Try these ideas to get moving at work:

- Walk to a co-worker's office to tell them something instead of calling or e-mailing.
- Walk in place while on the phone.
- Hold office meetings where everyone walks around the block together or marches in place if the meeting is inside.
- If your office is more than one story, take the stairs instead of the elevator or escalator.
- Walk around the block during your lunch break.
- Park in the spot farthest from the building.

For more ideas for adding physical activity to your workday, visit:

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/office-exercise/SM00115>

